
The Indian government has unveiled its plan for confronting the threat of climate change. But presenting the plan, India's Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, made no commitment to cut his country's emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas associated with global warming. This report from Alan Johnston:

Mr Singh acknowledged that climate change could have **a catastrophic impact** on the earth's environment. And he said that his one-billion people must now **set off down** a more **sustainable path of development**.

He spoke of the need for greater **energy efficiency** and a gradual **move away from** fossil fuels. Mr Singh said that **harnessing** the power of the sun would be **central to** this strategy.

India has no plans **to cut** its emissions of carbon. But it argues that - **per head of population** - its emissions are only **a fraction of** those of the rich nations.

Alan Johnston, BBC

Vocabulary and definitions

a catastrophic impact	an extremely serious negative influence
set off down	follow
sustainable path of development	making progress while causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time
energy efficiency	when energy is used well, without wasting any
move away from	stopping using; refusal to use
harnessing	getting control of and using
central to	the most important point of
to cut	to reduce, to lessen
per head of population	for every person who lives in India
a fraction of	very little compared to

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